UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 9/29/66

FROM : W. D. Griffith

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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By airtel dated 9/13/66 the Chicago Office furnished a blind memorandum captioned "Discussion of Warren Commission Report by Mark Lane and Albert E. Jenner, Jr., on Jerry Williams Show, 8 P.M. to 11:30 P.M., 9/15/66, WBBM Radio, Chicago, Illinois." During the television program Mark Lane attempted to discredit the work of the Warren Commission and its conclusions in an obvious effort to promote the sale of his book "Rush to Judgment." Mr. Jenner strongly defended the work of the Commission and was critical of Lane's book. During the program, among other allegations Lane reportedly made erroneous references to some aspects of our examination of the amateur movie film of the assassination made by Abraham Zapruder. He reportedly stated that four of the frames had been taken out of the film by the FBI and the film had been spliced and that members of the Commission and lawyers for the Commission did not know that the film had been spliced.

This is completely in error; at no time did the FBI modify the original film in any manner. The facts are we never had custody of the original film which Zapruder sold to Life magazine. We made our original examination from copies of the film and later from slides made from each frame and furnished to us by Life magazine. At the request of the Commission, a representative of Life magazine did bring the original film to the Commission and in the presence of one of our Laboratory experts ran the film for the lawyers for the Commission. At that time and in the presence of the representative from Life magazine, an expert from the FBI was allowed to examine the original film briefly. The film was never out of the custody of

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1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
2 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley) (Mr. Raupach)
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Griffith
1 - Mr. Shaney

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the representative from Life magazine during this period. We at that time noted no splice; however, subsequently when Life made slides of each frame available to us, it was determined by reference to the FBI copy of the film that certain frames were not represented in the slides and that the film from which the slides were made, now had been spliced. It is interesting to note that in the footnote on page 66 of Lane's book "Rush to Judgment" he makes reference to the fact that the film was in the custody of Life magazine and that Life was reluctant to release it to the Commission.

The initial assignment of numbers to the frames was done in the Laboratory and was based on the frames in the copy of the original that had been furnished to the FBI and this copy of the Zapruder film contained all of the frames and was made before the splicing occurred. As indicated above, we first became aware of the splices when individual slides of the pertinent frames were made by Life magazine and furnished to the FBI. These slides clearly show the splice on frame 207 and frame 212 and no slides were furnished for frames 208 through 211. It can be assumed that the splicing was done by Life magazine. The four missing frames were examined from the FBI copy previously obtained and although there is slightly less detail in the copy than in the original film, there was insufficient loss of information to be pertinent to the study of the film.

During the printing of the Warren Commission report, testimony and exhibits, two photographs representing frames from the Zapruder film were transposed resulting in mislabeling. Lane in the television program also referred to this mislabeling. This matter had been previously discovered and it had been previously established that the photographs of the frames and their numbers as furnished by the FBI Laboratory were correct, and the mislabeling in the Commission Report is apparently the result of a printing error.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For your information.